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Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides a brief overview of the work of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and includes information on the ongoing preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the elaboration of a draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself. The report also contains information on the approval by the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/192, of the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/192, entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-seventh session.

II. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. Following the endorsement of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/174, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched, with the support of the Government of the State of Qatar, the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards a Culture of Lawfulness. The activities under the global programme directly support the operational, legislative and policy-related work required by Member States to make progress towards and successfully achieve the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

3. The global programme comprises four specific and interrelated components: strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in justice systems; fostering prisoners' rehabilitation and social integration; preventing youth crime through sports; and an initiative entitled "Education for justice", the aim of which is to develop age-appropriate educational materials and programmes on topics related to crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to assisting Member States in integrating those programmes into the curricula of their schools and universities.

4. Since the inception of the global programme a total of more than 9,700 stakeholders, primarily judges, prison practitioners, academics, teachers, sports coaches, representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations and an increasing number of children and youth in more than 158 countries have been reached through the activities carried out under the programme. Furthermore, more than 4,000 stakeholders from 121 countries benefited from a multitude of capacity-building activities, including conferences, workshops and training events.

5. The global programme has also produced a host of innovative knowledge products and tools for a diverse audience of practitioners, including the *Line-up, Live-up: Trainer Manual on Life Skills Training Through Sport to Prevent Crime, Violence and Drug Use*, the *Roadmap for the Development of Prison-based Rehabilitation Programmes*, and the "Resource Guide for organizing model United Nations conferences that address crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law".

6. The implementation of the global programme continues at an increased pace and several initiatives lie ahead, in particular the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in April 2018.

III. Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

A. Venue and duration

7. In its resolution 70/174, the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in 2020.

8. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly decided that the duration of the Fourteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations. The exact dates of the Congress, as well as the date of the pre-Congress consultations and the timing and duration of the high-level segment of the Congress, will be decided by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session (see para. 30 below).

B. Theme

9. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly decided that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress would be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda".

C. Provisional agenda

10. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly approved the following provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.
4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.
5. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.
6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:
   (a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
   (b) New and emerging forms of crime.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

D. Workshops

11. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly decided that the following issues would be considered by workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress:

(a) Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices;

(b) Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions;

(c) Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime;

(d) Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.

12. In the same resolution, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress, and invited Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the UNODC and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material.

13. The following institutes contributed to the drafting of the pertinent workshop segments of the discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress, as well as the preparations for the workshops themselves: the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (for the first workshop); the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (for the second workshop); the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (for the third workshop); and the Korean Institute of Criminology (for the fourth workshop).

E. Structure and conduct

14. In resolution 72/192, the General Assembly invited Member States to be represented at the highest possible level at the Fourteenth Congress, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate actively in the high-level segment.

15. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encouraged Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provided an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations.

16. In discharging its mandated function as the preparatory body for the congresses, the Commission, with the support of the Secretariat, intends to build on the successful substantive and organizational preparations for and the conduct and outcome of the Thirteenth Congress.

F. Outcome

17. In its resolution 56/119, the General Assembly decided that each congress should adopt a single declaration containing recommendations derived from the deliberations of the high-level segment, the round tables and the workshops, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration. Accordingly, the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration at its twenty-ninth session in 2020.

18. During its twenty-eighth session, in 2019, the Commission is to begin focused and inclusive consultations, in order to facilitate the preparation of a structured and well-defined advance draft declaration, with a view to replicating the successful practice followed at the Thirteenth Congress of adopting the declaration at the high-level segment.

G. Resource allocation

19. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States.

20. In the financial statement on the revised draft resolution of the Commission that was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 72/192, it was stated that the resource requirements to provide for the following activities would be reviewed in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, in accordance with established budgetary procedures:

(a) Assistance with the preparation, documentation and servicing of the preparatory meetings of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and of the Congress itself;

(b) Specialized expertise to prepare technical research papers on the substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress;

(c) Participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and in the Congress itself;

(d) The travel of staff to provide substantive servicing for the regional preparatory meetings of the Fourteenth Congress.

21. In its resolution 72/263, the General Assembly approved the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC as contained in document A/72/6 (Sect. 16).

22. Resources have been made available in the budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress, to be held in 2019, in Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa. The necessary resources for the servicing of the meetings and for the travel of participants from least developed countries have also been allocated.

23. Additional resources required for the preparation, documentation and servicing of the Congress itself, as well as the participation of least developed countries therein, will be included in the proposed programme budget for the year 2020.

IV. Regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress

24. As stated in paragraph 19 above, in its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress. Furthermore, the Assembly urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Fourteenth Congress.

25. Four regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress will be held for the following regions: Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. The meetings are expected to be held during the first half of 2019.

V. Discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fourteenth Congress

26. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal

justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2019, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.

27. In line with resolution 72/192, a draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress has been prepared by the Secretariat. The draft text of the discussion guide is to be made available to the Commission at its twenty-seventh session, with a view to affording Member States an opportunity to offer feedback or comments on its content. The discussion guide, in its final form, will be used as a key substantive document to guide the deliberations at the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself.

28. As mentioned in paragraph 13 above, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network provided input to the discussion guide with relation to its segments on the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

29. In resolution 72/192, the General Assembly requested the Commission to review the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and to make its recommendations on all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements, including the dates of the high-level segment, to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. I urge the Commission to finalize those issues. In accordance with past practice, I may consider appointing a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, should Member States request me to do so.